

Message Text

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UNCLAS DUBLIN 02806

E.O. 11652: N/A
SUBJECT: ARTICLE IN THE IRISH PRESS AUGUST 31, 1978

FOLLOWING ARTICLE APPEARED IN THE IRISH PRESS AUGUST
31, 1978 UNDER HEADING MORE U.S. ACTION ON NORTH URGED:

TWO AMERICAN CONGRESSMEN ON A FACT-FINDING VISIT TO
THE NORTH ARE TO ADVOCATE MORE POLITICAL INVOLVEMENT
BY AMERICA IN EFFORTS TO FIND A SOLUTION TO THE
PROVINCE'S TROUBLES.

THEY SAID IN BELFAST LAST NIGHT THAT AMERICA SHOULD
NOT DICTATE COURSES OF ACTION, BUT THE U.S.
GOVERNMENT SHOULD AT LEAST ACT IN AN INTERMEDIARY
ROLE IF NECESSARY, BECAUSE AMERICA WAS HELD IN SUCH
HIGH REGARD BY NORTHERN IRELAND PEOPLE.

THE VISITORS ALSO REVEALED THAT THEY HAD BEEN REFUSED
PERMISSION TO VISIT H BLOCK IN LONG KESH AND SAID
THIS WAS A MAJOR TALKING POINT IN AMERICA. THE
CONGRESSMEN, JOSHUA EILBERG AND HAMILTON FISH, ARE
MEMBERS OF THE 110-STRONG INFLUENTIAL IRISH AD HOC
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COMMITTEE, THE NUMERICALLY STRONGEST OF ALL
CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.

A YEAR AGO PRESIDENT CARTER PROMISED MASSIVE AID TO
THE NORTH BUT ON CONDITION THAT FIRST THERE MUST BE
PEACE. MR. FISH SAID: I DISAGREE WITH THE PRESIDENT
THAT AMERICA SHOULD WAIT FOR PEACE SETTLEMENT BEFORE

TAKING ACTION TO HELP NORTHERN IRELAND.

"FROM WHAT I HAVE HEARD IN THE LAST FEW DAYS HERE, I THINK THAT PERHAPS THERE IS A ROLE THAT WE CAN PLAY IN LOOKING TOWARDS A SOLUTION IN NORTHERN IRELAND. THE ROLE I HEAR MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED IS THAT OF AN 'HONEST BROKER'. I DON'T WISH TO DEFINE THAT IN DETAIL AT THIS STAGE, BUT I THINK WE SHOULD SAY AS A GOVERNMENT THAT WE ARE AVAILABLE. TO DATE, THIS HAS NOT BEEN SAID BY ANYBODY IN AUTHORITY IN THE UNITED STATES."

IT IS SIGNIFICANT THAT "HONEST BROKER" IS A TERM THAT HAS BEEN USED BY LOYALIST PARA-MILITARY GROUPS, LIKE THE UDA. ANDY TYRIE, THE UDA SUPREME COMMANDER, FOR EXAMPLE, HAS SUGGESTED THAT SOMEONE WHO IS RESPECTED BY "BOTH SIDES" IN THE NORTH, SUCH AS SENATOR EDWARD KENNEDY, COULD FILL SUCH A ROLE IN BRINGING CATHOLICS AND PROTESTANTS TOGETHER.

MR. EILBERG SAID HE WAS ALSO DISAPPOINTED IN PRESIDENT CARTER'S STATEMENT. HE SAID: "THE PRESIDENT HAS SHOWN GREAT INTEREST IN HUMAN RIGHTS IN VARIOUS PARTS OF THE WORLD. THE UNITED STATES, I SUGGEST, SHOULD INTEREST ITSELF MORE IN HUMAN RIGHTS IN NORTHERN IRELAND." SHANNON

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